

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05936 010645Z

11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 010610Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5936

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, EAVI, BGEN, AS

SUBJ: TRANS-AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES FUEL PROBLEM

1. TRANS-AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES HAS ASKED EMBASSY FOR ANY HELP IT CAN RENDER IN OBTAINING NECESSARY ALLOCATION OF JET FUEL NECESSARY TO FLY NEWLY DELIVERED BOEING 727 STRETCH JET FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON TO AUSTRALIA.

2. TAA IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF PLANE AT BOEING'S RENTON, WASHINGTON PLANT IN THIRD WEEK NOVEMBER. EMBASSY ADVISED BY TAA AND ITS NORMAL FUEL SUPPLIER, CALTEX AUSTRALIA, THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE IN AUGUST FOR CHEVRON TO FURNISH NECESSARY FUEL AT SEATTLE, HILO AND PAGO PAGO FOR MOVEMENT OF PLANE FROM RENTON TO AUSTRALIA FOLLOWING DELIVERY. CALTEX ADVISES US HOWEVER THAT ON OCTOBER 30 CHEVRON ADVISED CALTEX AND TAA THAT CHEVRON WOULD REQUIRE USG APPROVAL FOR THESE DELIVERIES UNDER MANDATORY ALLOCATION PROGRAM AND THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH APPROVAL WERE UNCLEAR.

3. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST BOEING CANBERRA OFFICE HAS URGENTLY RAISED QUESTION WITH BOEING SALES DEPARTMENT SEATTLE AND BOEING OFFICE WASHINGTON, D.C. REQUESTING THEM TO MAKE UTMOST EFFORT SOLVE TAA'S PROBLEMS AS PART OF THEIR SALES SUPPORT. BOEING REPLY TO BOEING CANBERRA AGREES MAKE BEST EFFORT BUT ADVISES BOEING HEADQUARTERS SEES NO EARLY SOLUTION.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 05936 010645Z

RM EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT OFFER ANY APPROPRIATE

SUPPORT TO BOEING AND CHEVRON IN FINDING SOLUTION. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT SALES ARE MAJOR COMPONENT U.S. EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA. THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM COULD EMBARRASS AMERICAN AIRCRAFT VENDORS IN VIGOROUS CURRENT COMPETITION WITH BRITISH AND EUROPEAN COMPETITORS FOR SUBSTANTIAL NEW CIVIL AIRCRAFT BUSINESS NOW IN OFFING. IN ADDITION, ANSETT AIRLINES HAS SIMILAR DELIVERY SCHEDULED LATE NOVEMBER AND IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE WARD OFF SIMILAR PROBLEM ARISING IN THIS CASE.
GREEN

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